

# Incomes of Dentists and Osteopathic Physicians

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THIS article presents in summary form the results of a Nation-wide survey<sup>1</sup> of the incomes of practicing dentists and osteopathic physicians conducted by the National Income Section of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce with the cooperation of the American Dental Association and the American Osteopathic Association and the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. The complete survey will contain additional data, including comparisons of average income by type of income, type of practice, and education. Cross-tabulations of income by years and employment and pay of professional and nonprofessional employees of independent practitioners will also be presented.

<sup>1</sup> Questionnaires were addressed to 71,692 dentists, of whom 42,711 were members of the American Dental Association. The addresses of dentists who were not members of the association were obtained from sources approved by the American Dental Association. Usable returns were received from 6,103 members of the association and 1,800 nonmembers.

Questionnaires were addressed to 9,143 osteopathic physicians, of whom 5,205 were members of the American Osteopathic Association. The entire mailing list was provided by the association. Usable returns were received from 1,072 members of the association and 400 nonmembers.

The various measures presented in this article have been weighted to take account of the different proportions of returns from members and nonmembers of the associations. However, the figures presented in the tables as the "number in sample" for the various categories are simply the aggregate number of returns received from both members and nonmembers of the associations. The methods used in making the combinations of returns from association members and nonmembers will be presented in a more detailed report to be published in the near future.

The income data presented refer exclusively to income from professional services, including income from independent practice and from salaried employment in professional work, and excluding earnings from other sources, as well as dividends, interest, and other property income. Except where otherwise indicated, the term "income" refers to net income from professional services only.

## Incomes of Dentists

The average net income from professional services, including professional salaries, of practicing dentists in the United States in 1937 was \$2,914. This compares with averages of \$4,273 in 1929 and \$2,251 in 1933. The corresponding medians, representing the income levels above and below which an equal number of cases occur, are shown in table 1 to be \$2,485 in 1937, \$3,676 in 1929, and \$1,880 in 1933.

The extent of variation among incomes of different members of the profession, as well as differences in the distributions themselves from year to year, are shown in table 1 and figure 5. The differences between the averages and the corresponding medians reflect the existence of a number of high incomes. These high incomes have a marked effect on the averages, but have little effect on the medians, so that an excess of the

Table 1.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Dentists According to Total Net Income from Professional Services

Item	By years					By type of practice, 1937			By type of income recipient, 1937		
	1929	1933	1935	1936	1937	General	Partly specialized	Wholly specialized	Non-salaried	Part salaried	100 percent salaried
Percentage of total reporting net income of less than:											
\$0	0.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.2	1.1	0.4	0.0
\$400	2.3	0.9	6.1	4.2	4.5	4.6	3.9	2.0	4.7	3.8	.9
\$1,000	6.1	25.3	15.6	13.0	13.0	15.4	3.5	5.2	12.6	5.1	1.2
\$1,500	10.2	37.1	30.4	24.0	24.9	21.6	27.0	8.8	26.0	30.1	10.0
\$2,000	15.9	53.0	45.2	30.0	37.1	35.0	28.1	13.8	37.8	33.0	17.6
\$2,500	27.0	61.8	60.1	53.5	51.2	51.5	33.3	22.3	61.0	44.8	33.1
\$3,000	37.6	70.7	69.9	64.0	61.8	63.2	39.8	28.1	62.5	60.2	50.4
\$4,000	46.0	82.5	84.5	80.4	78.1	78.0	65.5	41.5	78.5	71.9	78.0
\$5,000	50.0	93.4	91.4	88.9	87.2	88.7	74.3	55.0	87.3	84.0	89.4
\$6,000	50.8	96.1	93.3	92.1	93.3	93.3	81.9	65.0	92.2	90.0	94.1
\$7,000	53.0	97.0	91.1	95.0	95.2	95.1	89.8	74.3	95.4	92.2	96.6
\$8,000	55.4	98.5	98.1	97.0	97.7	97.7	92.1	79.0	97.1	93.4	98.4
\$9,000	63.4	98.0	98.0	98.5	98.1	98.7	94.7	86.0	98.2	95.9	99.4
\$10,000	90.2	99.4	99.3	99.0	98.7	99.1	95.3	98.0	98.8	96.5	99.8
\$20,000	99.0	100.0	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	100.0	99.4	99.0	99.6	100.0
\$50,000	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	
Average income	\$4,273	\$2,251	\$2,549	\$2,780	\$2,914	\$2,809	\$3,071	\$2,451	\$2,893	\$3,380	\$3,178
Median income	\$3,676	\$1,880	\$2,173	\$2,371	\$2,485	\$2,444	\$3,011	\$4,480	\$1,002	\$2,239	\$2,494
Percent of total						91.6	8.0	2.8	92.5	4.9	2.7
Number in sample	4,907	6,185	7,029	7,405	7,983	6,870	472	291	7,346	399	230

<sup>1</sup> Less than 1/10 of 1 percent of the returns reported \$30,000 or more.

averages over the medians may be taken as a general indication of the extent to which high incomes occur in excess of correspondingly low incomes.

The depression's effect on incomes in dentistry may be noted from table 1, which shows that less than one-fifth of the returns reported incomes of less than \$2,000 in 1929, while more than half were below that level in 1933, and 37 percent were still below that level in 1937. Whereas only 5 percent reported incomes below \$1,000 in 1929, 20 percent were below that figure in 1933. Considering the higher levels of income, only 6.5 percent of the total reported incomes in excess of \$5,000 in 1933, as compared with almost 30 percent in 1929. Incomes in excess of \$10,000 were reported by only six-tenths of 1 percent in 1933, as compared with almost 5 percent in 1929.

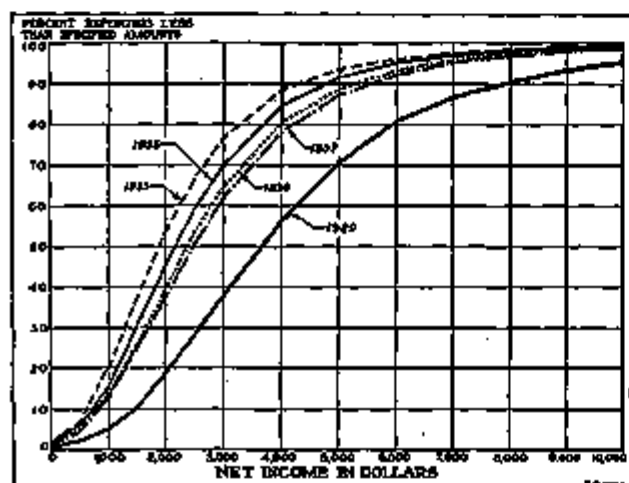


Figure 5.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Dentists According to Total Net Income, by Years.

The upper level of income of the lower 10 percent of returns fell from \$1,500 in 1929 to almost \$800 in 1933, and rose again to over \$800 in 1937 (see fig. 5). The upper 10 percent of the returns showed a minimum income of \$7,900 in 1929, of \$4,300 in 1933, and of \$5,500 in 1937. A similar consideration of the lower and upper 25-percent levels shows that the top income of the dentists in the lower quarter fell from \$2,350 in 1929 to \$1,150 in 1933, while the bottom income of the upper quarter declined from \$5,450 to almost \$2,900 during the corresponding years.

The distribution of returns by type of practice shows that the 2.5 percent of the practicing dentists who were wholly specialized received an average income of \$5,451 in 1937, which was almost 50 percent more than the average income reported by the 5.9 percent of dentists who were partly specialized, and almost double that of the general practitioners who represent 91.6 percent of the total number of active dentists. The relatively higher incomes of the partly and wholly specialized dentists are evident from a consideration of the distribution of returns by size of income. Whereas more than

one-fifth of the general practitioners had incomes of less than \$1,500 in 1937, less than one-tenth of the wholly specialized dentists reported incomes below that level. More than half of the dentists reporting a general practice had incomes below \$2,500 as compared with two-fifths and one-fifth of the partly and wholly specialized dentists, respectively, whose incomes fell below that level. While 25 percent of the wholly specialized and 10 percent of the partly specialized dentists reported incomes in excess of \$7,000, less than 4 percent of the general practitioners reported incomes over \$7,000. Less than 1 percent of the general practitioners, as compared with 3.7 percent of the partly specialized and 10 percent of the wholly specialized dentists, reported incomes of \$10,000 or more. Data showing the extent to which these differences are occasioned by the greater proportion of new entrants to the profession going into general practice will be presented in a final release.

A consideration of the 90-percent level in figure 6 shows that the lower limit of income of the upper 10 percent was \$10,000, \$7,100, and \$5,300 in 1937 for the wholly specialized, partly specialized, and general practitioners, respectively. The more favorable position of the specializing groups, evidenced generally by the lower position of the curves, is brought out rather sharply at the 30-percent level, with that percentage of the general practitioners receiving an income of less than \$1,750, as compared with more than \$2,000 for the partial specialists and over \$3,100 for the wholly specialized dentists.

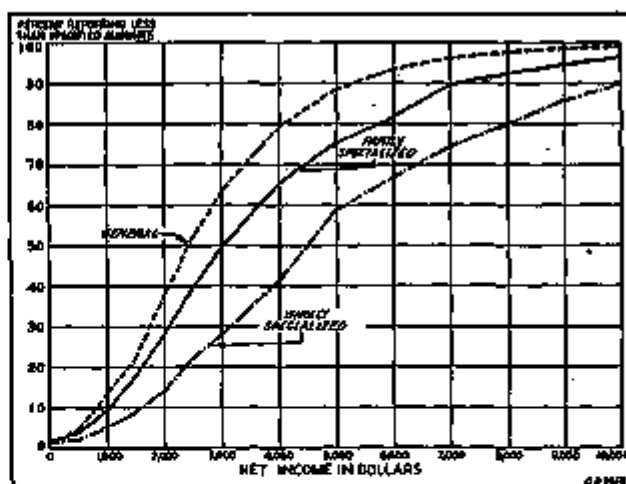


Figure 6.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Dentists According to Total Net Income, by Type of Practice, 1937.

The distribution by type of income recipient shows that the spread of incomes among the 100-percent-salaried dentists was less than that of either the part-salaried or nonsalaried dentists. While the average income of the wholly salaried group was less than that of the part-salaried group, the median was higher. More than 13 percent of the wholly independent practitioners reported incomes below \$1,000, as compared

with less than 10 percent of the part-salaried and only slightly more than 1 percent of the dentists who worked exclusively for a salary. An income of less than \$1,500 was reported by one-fourth of the nonsalaried, one-fifth of the part-salaried, and one-tenth of the 100-percent-salaried dentists. While the wholly salaried dentists reported a relatively small number in the very low classes of income, they did not report any incomes

age incomes of those dentists reported employed. Although the average income of the 100-percent-salaried dentists was the lowest of the three groups considered in 1929, the drop in the average for nonsalaried dentists was such as to place them in the lowest position

Table 2.—Average Income and Percentage Distribution of Dentists, by Years of Practice and by Age, 1937

Item	Number in sample	Percent of total	Average income	Item	Number in sample	Percent of total	Average income
(A) YEARS OF PRACTICE				(B) AGE			
1 and under.....	351	3.5	\$1,168	24 and under.....	43	1.2	\$1,189
2.....	268	2.6	1,779	25.....	105	3.6	1,305
3.....	334	3.1	1,864	26.....	119	3.6	1,683
4.....	353	3.4	2,276	27.....	202	2.7	1,704
5.....	310	2.7	2,364	28-29.....	457	6.3	2,170
6.....	183	2.4	2,585	30-34.....	1,141	15.2	2,026
7.....	205	2.0	2,142	35-39.....	1,130	14.7	2,638
8-9.....	452	6.2	3,183	40-44.....	1,178	15.8	2,477
10-14.....	1,271	12.0	3,503	45-49.....	843	11.9	2,392
15-19.....	1,067	10.0	3,473	50-54.....	625	8.6	2,687
20-24.....	935	8.7	3,371	55-59.....	600	8.2	2,639
25-29.....	600	5.3	3,116	60-64.....	523	5.0	2,270
30-34.....	577	5.0	2,620	65-69.....	269	2.8	1,535
35-39.....	582	5.3	2,412	70 and over.....	119	1.7	1,548
40-44.....	202	2.8	2,128				
45 and over.....	117	1.7	1,731				

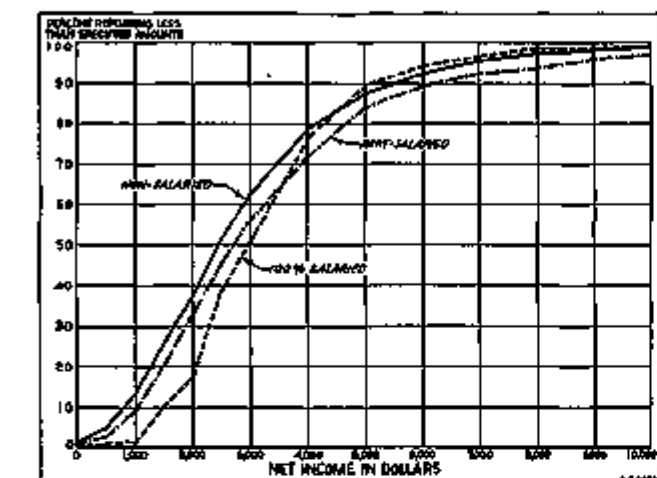


Figure 7.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Dentists According to Total Net Income, by Type of Income Recipient, 1937.

above \$20,000, as did the nonsalaried and part-salaried groups. The 100-percent-salaried dentists reported the smallest percentages of total at all income levels below \$3,000 and at all income levels above \$5,000, indicating a higher concentration of numbers at the central values.

Table 2.—Average Income and Percentage Distribution of Dentists, by Type of Income Recipient, by Years

Item and year	Type of income recipient			
	Total	Non-salaried	Part-salaried	100 percent salaried
Average income:				
1929.....	\$4,273	\$4,307	\$5,404	\$3,689
1933.....	2,324	2,188	2,225	2,037
1935.....	2,545	2,485	2,861	2,040
1936.....	2,706	2,726	2,893	2,861
1937.....	2,914	2,883	2,888	2,178
Index of average income (1929=100):				
1929.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1933.....	52.7	61.3	60.8	51.5
1935.....	59.6	68.2	67.9	52.3
1936.....	64.8	63.8	60.6	53.1
1937.....	65.2	67.6	62.7	58.5
Percentage of total number:				
1929.....	100.0	93.8	3.8	3.9
1933.....	100.0	93.0	3.6	3.5
1935.....	100.0	92.8	3.9	3.3
1936.....	100.0	92.9	4.1	3.0
1937.....	100.0	92.5	4.0	3.7
Number in sample:				
1929.....	4,067	4,023	144	201
1933.....	6,195	6,734	224	231
1935.....	7,028	6,611	272	245
1936.....	7,426	6,997	313	226
1937.....	7,940	7,346	338	228

The data presented in table 2 show that the average income of dentists employed either in part or in whole in salaried work did not fall so low during the depression, either absolutely or in relative terms, as did that of the nonsalaried practitioners. However, no data are available to show the incidence of unemployment on salaried dentists, the figures being simply the aver-

for all the other years studied. While the part-salaried dentists maintained the highest average in all years under consideration, the degree to which their income exceeded that of the other two groups diminished during the last 2 years. No definite statement can be made as to the cause of that decline, but it is highly probable that it was the result of the combination of a shift of dentists, as evidenced by the percentages of total, from both of the other two groups and of the greater proportion of new members of the profession going into part-salaried employment.

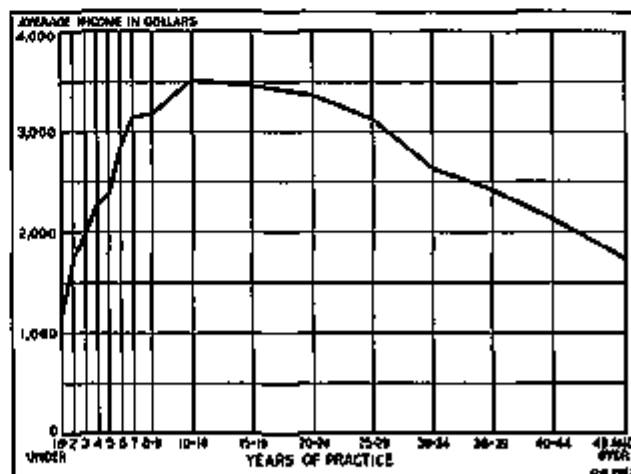


Figure 8.—Average Income of Dentists, by Years of Practice, 1937.

Average incomes show a rapid increase during the first 7 years of practice, then level off to a maximum during the second decade of practice and decline slowly thereafter (see table 3 and fig. 8). The data indicate that during the period from the seventh to the twenty-ninth years of practice average incomes exceed the average for the profession as a whole. The averages shown

in section (B) of this table follow a pattern similar to that above, passing the average of the profession at 30 years of age, continuing upward until the late thirties, falling below the profession average at about 55, and continuing to decline thereafter. Such differences as occur between the two sections of the table are occasioned by differences in the entrance age of the various members of the profession.

A definite tendency toward salaried work by the newer entrants into the dental profession is evidenced by the data shown in table 4, which relate type of income received to years of practice. Although certain irregularities occur in the pattern of the data, there is distinct evidence that the proportion of dentists in sal-

Table 4.—Percentage Distribution of Dentists According to Type of Income Received, by Years of Practice, 1937

Years of practice	Number in sample	Percentage of total			
		Total	Nonsalaried	Part-salaried	100 percent salaried
1 and under	281	100.0	81.2	13.7	5.1
2	288	100.0	83.4	8.7	4.9
3	224	100.0	85.6	9.0	4.8
4	323	100.0	87.0	7.9	4.5
5	288	100.0	87.5	6.4	3.1
6	183	100.0	89.0	8.7	1.7
7	206	100.0	90.4	0.7	2.9
8-9	433	100.0	87.3	7.6	4.9
10-14	1,371	100.0	92.3	4.9	2.6
15-19	1,037	100.0	94.0	4.3	1.2
20-24	835	100.0	94.0	3.4	2.6
25-29	600	100.0	94.4	3.6	2.0
30-34	677	100.0	94.9	1.7	1.5
35-39	323	100.0	97.3	1.3	.9
40-44	283	100.0	96.4	3.3	.1
45 and over	117	100.0	90.7	2.0	1.3

aried positions is greatest among those who have entered the profession during more recent years. A possible explanation of the relatively high percentage in part-salaried work in the group with 1 year or less of practice is that a number of these dentists may have been in salaried work with dental schools during the first half of the year and then entered independent practice, thus showing both types of income during the year, although not necessarily receiving them simultaneously. The sudden jumps in the percentages for the salaried classifications in the group with 8 to 9 years of practice may perhaps be explainable on the basis that those men who took salaried positions in 1928 and 1929 (thus showing 8 to 9 years of practice in 1937) tended to hold their positions through the depression rather than attempt to go into independent practice.

Highest average and median incomes were reported by dentists in the Pacific States (see table 5). The Middle Atlantic group reported average incomes almost equal to those of the Pacific group, but their median income ranked fourth among the geographic divisions, indicating a higher dispersion of individual incomes in that group of States. New England dentists ranked fourth in average income, but the more uniform distribu-

tion of incomes placed this region second in terms of the median income reported. While data with regard to average income by size of place will not be available until the final report is released, it may be noted that the average incomes for States within the various regions tend to be highest in the States with the greater

Table 5.—Average and Median Net Income of Dentists, by Geographic Divisions and by Selected States, 1937

Geographic division or State	Number in sample	Net income from professional services	
		Average	Median
New England	619	\$3,155	\$2,722
Massachusetts	277	3,212	2,040
Other	342	2,900	2,900
Middle Atlantic	2,042	3,209	2,600
New York	1,121	3,348	2,825
New Jersey	313	3,180	2,622
Pennsylvania	608	2,844	2,419
East North Central	1,844	2,915	2,470
Ohio	438	2,980	2,379
Indiana	187	2,641	2,320
Illinois	817	2,753	2,398
Michigan	320	3,291	3,103
Wisconsin	276	2,491	2,137
West North Central	1,185	2,948	1,081
Minnesota	321	2,628	2,487
Iowa	226	2,257	1,622
Missouri	281	1,932	1,678
Other	338	2,111	1,890
South Atlantic	487	3,158	2,718
District of Columbia	87	2,637	3,348
North and South Carolina	73	2,481	2,184
Georgia and Florida	126	3,866	2,978
Other	212	3,043	2,600
East South Central	298	2,496	2,208
West South Central	349	2,768	2,476
Texas	233	2,938	2,748
Other	116	2,264	2,008
Mountain	303	2,042	2,324
Pacific	658	3,214	2,777
Washington	180	2,683	2,492
Oregon	103	2,410	2,332
California	704	3,420	2,960

proportions of urban population. Thus, Massachusetts has an average income higher than that of the rest of the New England States, and New York and California each lead their respective regions in average income received. States for which averages are shown were selected on the basis of the size of the sample for the State and the difference between the State and regional averages. While the samples for some of the States shown may be too small to warrant definite statements as to the absolute levels of income, the direction of the difference between their averages and those of the regions may be taken as significant. Thus, whereas the average of \$3,609 reported for Georgia and Florida may be too high, being based on only 126 returns, there can be little doubt that their relative position in the South Atlantic region is above the average for the region as a whole.

Independent practicing dentists retained 56 percent of their gross income as net income in 1937 (see table 6). The effects of the fixed costs of practice (such as rent, and depreciation on equipment) can be seen from the low ratios of net income to gross income in the lower

income brackets. Thus, the dentists reporting gross incomes of less than \$500 showed an average net loss for the year; those whose gross incomes were between \$500 and \$999 showed an average ratio of net to gross of about one-third. There is a further sharp increase

Table 6.—Ratio of Net Income to Gross Income, by Gross Income Groups, Nonsalaried Dentists, 1937

Gross income	Number in sample	Ratio of net income to gross income	Gross income	Number in sample	Ratio of net income to gross income
Total.....	2,935	0.46	\$5,000-\$5,999.....	722	0.57
\$0-\$499.....	45	(1)	\$6,000-\$6,999.....	621	.57
\$500-\$999.....	101	.33	\$7,000-\$7,999.....	445	.56
\$1,000-\$1,499.....	282	.50	\$8,000-\$8,999.....	332	.56
\$1,500-\$1,999.....	374	.54	\$9,000-\$9,999.....	228	.57
\$2,000-\$2,499.....	459	.57	\$10,000-\$14,999.....	515	.58
\$2,500-\$2,999.....	510	.59	\$15,000-\$19,999.....	114	.56
\$3,000-\$3,499.....	1,145	.59	\$20,000-\$24,999.....	25	.62
\$3,500-\$4,999.....	985	.59	\$25,000 and over....	20	(1)

(1) Net income negative.

\* 0.46, exclusive of 0.04 return. Because of the small size of the sample in this group, the inclusion of this return, the validity of which appears doubtful, lowers the ratio to 0.24.

in the ratio for the gross income group of \$1,000 to \$1,499, with their net averaging half of their gross income. From this point forward on the gross-income scale, the ratio of net to gross increases slowly to a maximum of 0.59 between \$2,000 and \$5,000. There is little variation in the ratio after this level is reached, expenses increasing in about the same proportion as gross income.

#### Incomes of Osteopathic Physicians

The average net income from professional services, including professional salaries, of practicing osteopathic physicians in 1937 was \$2,534, as compared with averages of \$3,620 in 1929 and \$1,943 in 1933. The cor-

responding medians, representing the income levels above and below which an equal number of cases occur, are shown in table 7 to be \$2,037 in 1937, \$3,067 in 1929, and \$1,521 in 1933.

The extent of variation among incomes of different members of the profession, as well as differences in the distributions themselves, from year to year, among different types of practitioners and among different types of income recipients, are shown in table 7 and in

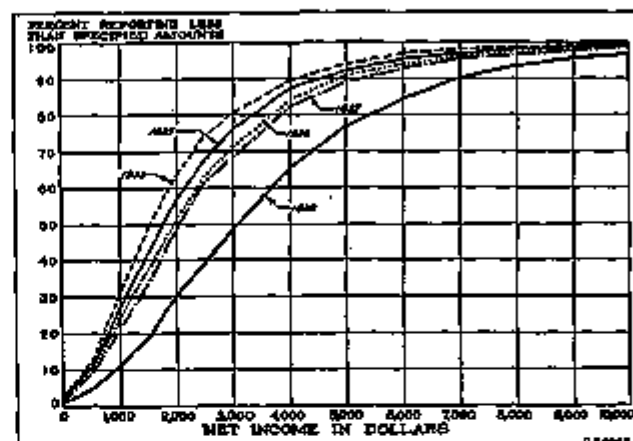


Figure 9.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Osteopathic Physicians According to Total Net Income, by Years.

figures 9, 10, and 11. The differences between the averages and the corresponding medians reflect the existence of a number of high income returns, a condition to which reference was previously made in the case of dentists and which is common to most distributions of income by size.

Less than one-fifth of the returns reported incomes of less than \$1,500 in 1929, but almost half were below that figure in 1933. Considering the higher income group,

Table 7.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Osteopathic Physicians According to Total Net Income from Professional Services

Item	By years					By type of practice, 1937			By type of income recipient, 1937		
	1929	1933	1935	1936	1937	General	Partly specialized	Wholly specialized	Nonsalaried	Part-salaried	100 percent salaried
Percentage of total reporting net incomes of less than:											
\$0.....	1.0	2.6	2.3	2.2	1.9	2.3	0.5	0.8	1.9	0.0	0.0
\$500.....	4.9	12.3	10.5	10.2	9.5	10.0	7.4	6.0	9.8	5.1	10.6
\$1,000.....	11.7	30.9	27.0	24.3	21.3	22.9	16.8	2.3	21.5	16.1	37.7
\$1,500.....	19.2	49.4	42.7	37.8	33.0	37.1	28.8	8.2	34.1	20.1	58.3
\$2,000.....	28.5	63.7	55.6	51.5	45.1	54.2	38.1	15.9	45.2	46.4	66.4
\$2,500.....	39.5	74.1	67.5	63.3	51.4	65.9	50.7	24.1	61.5	55.8	70.4
\$3,000.....	45.9	80.9	75.3	71.5	58.9	73.7	58.9	28.0	68.8	60.9	81.0
\$4,000.....	65.3	90.8	87.3	84.2	62.5	85.1	74.6	55.3	82.2	81.0	95.3
\$5,000.....	70.8	94.1	92.3	91.0	80.1	91.8	81.8	70.5	89.2	88.7	96.8
\$6,000.....	84.6	96.9	95.4	94.1	92.0	95.7	90.3	70.5	92.1	97.8	98.8
\$7,000.....	90.1	98.3	96.9	96.3	95.4	98.7	92.7	79.5	95.6	99.0	99.9
\$8,000.....	93.5	98.8	98.1	97.7	96.7	97.7	95.6	81.8	96.9	99.2	99.9
\$9,000.....	95.7	99.2	98.0	98.2	97.0	98.3	97.2	88.7	99.1	99.0	99.9
\$10,000.....	96.5	99.7	98.3	98.8	98.5	99.9	98.9	98.7	99.9	99.3	99.9
\$15,000.....	91.3	100.0	100.0	99.7	99.9	99.9	100.0	97.7	99.9	100.0	100.0
\$20,000.....	90.8			99.9	99.9	99.9		97.7	99.9		
\$25,000.....	100.0			100.0	100.0	100.0		97.7	99.9		
\$50,000.....				100.0	100.0			100.0	100.0		
Average income.....	\$3,620	\$1,943	\$2,190	\$2,425	\$2,534	\$3,348	\$3,059	\$2,300	\$3,479	\$2,943	\$2,147
Median income.....	\$3,067	\$1,521	\$1,757	\$1,845	\$2,037	\$1,777	\$2,472	\$2,629	\$2,632	\$2,340	\$1,642
Percent of total.....						72.1	24.4	3.5	63.4	8.0	2.6
Number in sample.....	704	878	1,268	1,248	1,472	1,018	340	35	1,374	61	37

by reading across the 90-percent level of figure 9, we find that 10 percent of the total number received more than approximately \$7,000 in 1929, \$4,000 in 1933, and \$5,200 in 1937. Correspondingly, 90 percent of the total number received less than these amounts in the respective years. Similar comparisons may be drawn at the various income and percentage levels.

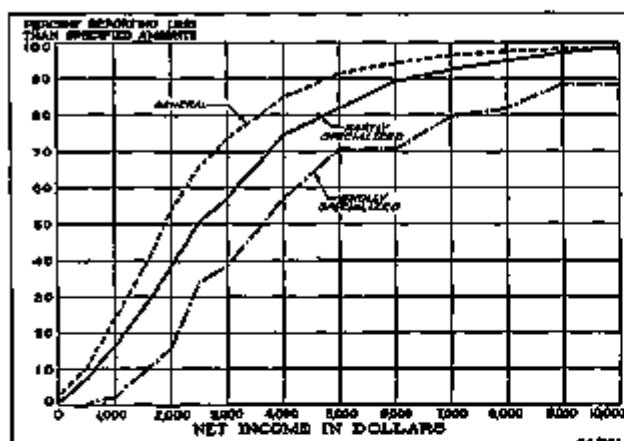


Figure 10.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Osteopathic Physicians According to Total Net Income, by Type of Practice, 1937.

A typical reading from table 7 shows that almost two-thirds of the general practitioners had incomes of less than \$2,500 in 1937, while only slightly more than half of those partly specialized and but slightly more than one-third of the wholly specialized osteopathic physicians were below that income level. A consideration of the same income level according to the type of income recipient indicates that of those osteopathic physicians relying entirely on independent practice for their professional income, 62 percent had incomes of less than \$2,500 in 1937, while only 55 percent of those receiving both independent and salaried incomes were below this figure.

Table 8.—Average Income and Percentage Distribution of Osteopathic Physicians, by Type of Income Recipient, by Years

Item and year	Type of income recipient			
	Total	Non-salaried	Part-salaried	100-percent salaried
<b>Average income:</b>				
1929	\$3,630	\$3,568	\$4,680	\$3,482
1933	1,943	1,908	2,402	2,227
1937	2,158	2,170	2,747	2,385
1938	2,435	2,400	3,040	2,204
1937	3,384	2,380	2,950	2,150
<b>Index of average income (1929=100):</b>				
1929	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1933	53.7	53.0	54.0	61.1
1937	60.5	60.3	64.2	64.1
1938	87.0	66.9	68.0	65.0
1937	71.4	71.7	64.7	61.7
<b>Percentage of total number:</b>				
1929	100.0	55.1	2.0	2.3
1933	100.0	55.1	2.0	2.1
1937	100.0	54.9	2.1	2.0
1938	100.0	54.4	2.5	2.1
1937	100.0	53.0	2.9	2.5
<b>Number in sample:</b>				
1929	704	688	19	17
1933	573	531	25	17
1937	1,088	1,031	30	22
1938	1,240	1,150	45	26
1937	1,472	1,374	61	37

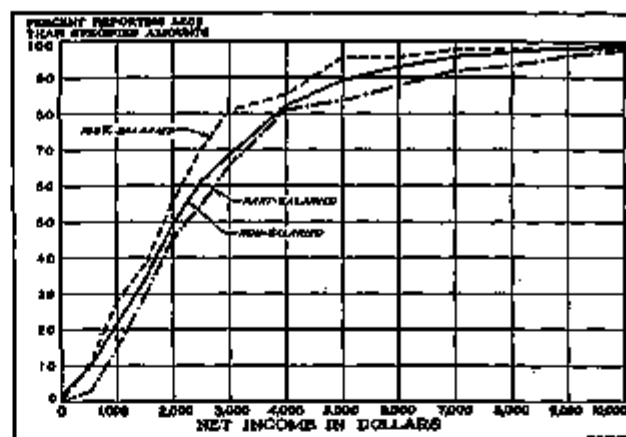


Figure 11.—Cumulative Percentage Distribution of Osteopathic Physicians According to Total Net Income, by Type of Income Recipient, 1937.

Variations in relative positions with respect to average incomes of the three types of income recipients are indicated in table 8. Thus, part-salaried osteopathic physicians reported the highest average income of the three groups in 1929 and the second highest in 1933. The average reported for the wholly salaried group was the lowest of the three in 1929, but by reason of a relatively small decline, it was the highest in 1933. Decreases in the averages for the part or wholly salaried groups in the latest years studied may possibly be explained on the basis of the entrance into these fields of the newer members of the profession whose average incomes are relatively low.

The data in table 9, relating income to years of practice, show a rapid rise of income during the early years of practice to a peak in the twentieth to twenty-fourth year of practice, and a decline thereafter. Similar data related to age show a maximum level of

Table 9.—Average and Median Net Income of Osteopathic Physicians by Years of Practice and Age, 1937

Item	Number in sample	Net income from professional service		Item	Number in sample	Net income from professional service	
		Average	Median			Average	Median
(A) YEARS OF PRACTICE				(B) AGE			
1 and under.....	141	\$1,064	\$821	25 and under.....	64	\$328	\$389
2.....	75	1,608	1,314	25-27.....	76	1,325	1,300
3-4.....	155	2,086	1,848	28-29.....	111	1,028	1,740
5-6.....	97	2,481	2,385	30-34.....	240	2,370	2,060
7-9.....	144	2,914	2,333	35-39.....	191	3,173	2,620
10-14.....	226	3,185	2,630	40-49.....	225	3,413	2,810
15-19.....	131	3,292	2,623	50-59.....	254	2,830	2,220
20-24.....	140	3,303	2,470				
25-29.....	98	2,674	1,901	60 and over.....	184	2,029	1,602
30 and over.....	262	2,330	1,834				

income in the forties. While there is a high degree of correlation between age and years of practice in osteopathy, differences existing between the two sections of the table are accounted for by reason of the variation in the entrance age of the various members of the profession.

Highest average incomes were realized in the Pacific States in 1937 (see table 10). Next highest were the Middle Atlantic States, while the lowest average incomes were received in the West North Central and Mountain States. Although the New England States ranked fifth in average income received, the median

income for this area ranked second because of a more uniform distribution of income in that group of States.

A ranking of average incomes by the size of place from which the returns were received (see table 11) shows that throughout the years covered in this study, osteopathic physicians in places with populations of 1,000 and under and of 1,000 to 2,500 received the lowest and the second lowest average incomes respectively, while the lowest 5 were consistently in groups of places with less than 25,000 population. While there are too few returns in some of the larger cities to afford valid comparisons, the differences in rank from year to year indicate that above the 25,000 population level there was little relationship between size of city and average income. Los Angeles showed a constant gain in relative ranking, rising from a position of seventh in 1929 to second in 1937.

Table 10.—Average and Median Net Income of Osteopathic Physicians, by Geographic Divisions, 1937

Geographic division	Number in sample	Net income from professional service	
		Average	Median
New England.....	308	\$2,495	\$2,125
Middle Atlantic.....	221	2,737	2,698
East North Central.....	222	2,090	2,167
West North Central.....	284	2,286	1,719
South Atlantic.....	72	2,587	2,675
South Central.....	121	2,391	1,913
Mountain.....	87	2,301	1,730
Pacific.....	263	2,990	2,303

Table 11.—Average Net Income of Osteopathic Physicians, by Size of Place and by Years

Size of place group	1929		1933		1935		1936		1937		Indexes of average income (1929=100)				
	Number in sample	Average income	Number in sample	Average income	Number in sample	Average income	Number in sample	Average income	Number in sample	Average income	1929	1933	1935	1936	1937
Under 1,000.....	21	\$1,920	37	\$1,151	54	\$1,254	60	\$1,552	90	\$1,540	100.0	59.9	64.3	80.9	80.3
1,000-2,499.....	43	2,003	49	1,453	78	1,600	88	1,842	109	1,972	100.0	55.6	55.2	74.5	75.4
2,500-4,999.....	41	3,043	51	1,858	72	2,040	88	2,300	108	2,490	100.0	61.1	67.2	78.5	78.2
5,000-9,999.....	58	3,531	84	1,987	119	2,000	132	2,221	151	2,591	100.0	53.9	58.5	63.1	67.8
10,000-24,999.....	63	2,971	129	1,744	158	1,910	179	2,070	211	2,288	100.0	58.7	64.5	69.0	77.9
25,000-49,999.....	85	3,856	81	2,932	85	2,325	108	2,783	118	2,894	100.0	61.4	63.9	70.3	73.2
50,000-99,999.....	77	3,865	81	2,730	87	2,325	109	2,707	121	3,213	100.0	64.0	68.2	71.0	83.2
100,000-249,999.....	59	4,253	86	2,628	103	2,496	117	2,492	141	2,656	100.0	47.7	55.5	58.0	62.5
250,000-499,999.....	69	3,777	89	2,130	107	2,410	117	2,631	137	2,854	100.0	50.4	53.8	70.2	75.0
500,000-999,999.....	34	4,161	27	2,424	40	2,720	55	3,873	63	3,125	100.0	59.4	65.7	74.9	75.3
Los Angeles.....	41	3,962	48	2,116	60	2,380	60	2,806	90	3,410	100.0	53.4	55.3	73.1	86.1
Detroit.....	10	4,726	17	2,485	26	2,628	25	2,720	31	3,037	100.0	52.5	56.2	67.5	82.0
Philadelphia.....	20	5,440	28	2,328	29	2,833	30	3,080	35	2,853	100.0	42.7	53.6	65.7	62.4
Chicago.....	11	4,320	17	2,851	21	2,845	28	2,755	25	3,103	100.0	54.5	61.2	63.5	73.2